

Local Council Tax Support Scheme - Background Information for Consultation Proposals

The following table explains the proposed changes, provides the reasoning of the proposal and an estimated potential total expenditure reduction

#	Area of Change	Explanation	Reason for Proposal	Total Estimated Expenditure Reduction	Reduction for CDC based on 8%	Estimated No of Affected Claims
1	Removal of the family premium	The family premium is part of how we assess the 'needs' of the household. The premium (currently £17.45) is given when a claimant has at least one dependent child living with them. This change would not affect those customers on pass ported benefits, such as Income Support	The removal of this premium from 1 April 2017 on new claims will bring Council Tax Support in-line with Housing Benefit rules	£18,500	£1,480	102
2	Reducing backdating to 1 month	Working age customers can currently claim backdating on Council Tax Support for up to 6 months. Central Government have changed the Housing Benefit rules and reduced the period from 6 months to 1 month	Reducing the backdating will bring Council Tax Support in-line with Housing Benefit rules	£360	£28.80	8
3	Reducing the period in which a person can be absent from Great Britain	Customers can currently be temporarily absent from their homes for no specific time limit. Reducing the period to 4 weeks would be in-line with Housing Benefit rules. There will be exemptions within these rules for certain types of temporary absence, such as hospitalised whilst on holiday	Reducing the period will bring Council Tax Support in-line with Housing Benefit rules	£225	£18	Average of 5 per annum
4	Limiting the number of dependent children to 2 within the calculation	Within the current scheme claimants who have children are awarded a dependent's addition of £66.90 per child within the applicable amounts. Currently there is no upper limit. There will be exemptions within these rules for certain instances such as multiple births	Limiting the number of dependent children will bring Council Tax Support in-line with Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and Tax Credit rules	£59,000	£4,720	85

5	Reducing the number if weeks for extended reductions to 4 weeks	The current scheme allows a 13 week extended reduction for Council Tax Support purposes. Housing Benefit rules allow 4 weeks	Reducing the number of weeks will bring Council Tax Support in-line with Housing Benefit rules	£5,000	£400	23
6	Disregard in full child maintenance payments for customers in receipt of Universal Credit	Currently child maintenance payments are included as part of the households income. It is proposed to retain this process for standard claims, but customers in receipt of Universal Credit it is proposed that these payments are disregarded	This would bring the scheme in-line with Universal Credit rules	Unable to estimate	-	Unknown quantity
7	Include as income Child Maintenance payments for those customers not in receipt of Universal Credit	Currently child maintenance payments are disregarded. It is proposed to include such payments as income when assessing claims	This would align the scheme within the shared service	£95,000	£7,600	183

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